

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5542

S E C R E T JIDDA 5482

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, JO, SA, US

SUBJECT: JORDAN AIR DEFENSE

REF: (A) STATE 196840; (B) JIDDA 5438

1. I WAS SUMMONED TODAY AT 1300 TO MEET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER PRINCE SAUD WHO IMMEDIATELY BEGAN TO LAMENT THE LACK OF PROGRESS WE HAD BEEN ABLE TO MAKE IN SOLVING THE QUESTION OF FINANCING OF THE JORDAN AIR DEFENSE PACKAGE. SINCE HAD RAISED THE SUBJECT AND SINCE I HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED TO DO SO, I BROACHED WITH HIM THE METHOD OF PAYMENT PROPOSED REFTEL A WHICH WOULD REGARD ALL SAUDI PAYMENTS FOR ALL FMS CASES AS A SINGLE ENTITY, INCLUDING THE JORDANIAN HAWK PURCHASE. I GAVE PRINCE SAUD A PAPER ON THE SUBJECT THAT I HAD BROUGHT WITH ME TO THE MEETING IN THE EVENT IT SEEMED APPROPRIATE TO MAKE THE PROPOSAL WITHOUT AWAITING THE COMMENTS ON ALTERNATIVE FINANCING SUGGESTIONS REQUESTED REFTEL B.

2. PRINCE SAUD EXPRESSED GREAT SATISFACTION AT OUR PROPOSAL, AND SAID THAT AS FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED THIS SHOULD SOLVE THE PROBLEM AND ENABLE US TO CONCLUDE THE MATTER. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO GET THE VIEWS OF OTHERS CONCERNED (NO DOUBT MINDEF PRINCE SULTAN). HE SAID THAT HE WOULD BE BACK TO ME TOMORROW WITH THE OFFICIAL SAG

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RESPONSE.

3. COMMENT: SAUD'S REACTION WAS EXTREMELY POSITIVE. I HOPE THAT PRINCE SULTAN WILL SHARE HIS ENTHUSIASM. DESPITE HIS INTENTIONS, IT MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR PRINCE SAUD TO GIVE ME AN OFFICIAL RESPONSE BY TOMMORROW. SULTAN IS IN ABHA PREPARING FOR THE KING'S VISIT TO THAT REGION AND IT MIGHT THEREFORE TAKE MORE TIME THAN THAT TO GET HIS VIEWS.
PORTER

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NNN

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